

wherein said jaw assembly includes a blade to cut the bags to separate the bags into sets, with each set being attached to the strip by a respective one of the end seal areas.

Claim 2 (original): The machine of claim 1 wherein, said blade is movably mounted in one of the jaws to sever the set from further bags being delivered to the machine, said blade being movable between an extended position to engage the bags, and a retracted position at which the bags are not severed.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The machine of ~~claim 1 or 2~~ claim 1 wherein, each set includes at least one bag.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The machine of ~~claim 1, 2 or 3~~ claim 1 further including an actuator assembly to cause movement of the blade.

Claim 5 (original): The machine of claim 4 wherein, the actuator assembly includes a rotatably driven crank mechanism that causes linear reciprocation of the jaws.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The machine of any one of ~~claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 wherein, the delivery mechanism includes a slot in one of the jaws through which the strip passes.

Claim 7 (currently amended): In combination the machine of any one of ~~claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1 and a packaging machine that produces the bags, and wherein said packaging machine includes sealing jaws that engage the bags to form said end seal areas. In a further preferred form, said sealing jaws include a member to perforate each bag so that individual bags may be separated from their respective sets.

Claim 8 (original): A method of forming a packaging assembly, said method including the steps of:

providing a flexible strip;

providing a plurality of sealingly closed bags, the bags being joined by end seal areas;

cutting the bags into sets and attaching each set to said strip by a respective one of the end sealed areas.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 8 wherein, each set includes at least one bag.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of ~~claim 8 or 9~~ claim 8 wherein, the method includes perforating the bags so that each bag can be separated from the strip and adjacent bags.

Claim 11 (original): A package assembly including a flexible strip and a plurality of bags attached to the strip at longitudinal spaced locations along the strip, with the bags being arranged in sets, each set including a plurality of bags with each bag having end seal areas; and wherein the bags of each set are attached to the strip by a respective one of the end seal areas.

Claim 12 (original): The package assembly of claim 11 wherein, adjacent bags are attached by the end seal areas with a transversed weakened portion that is fractured to enable separation of the bags.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The package assembly of ~~claim 11 or 12~~ claim 11 wherein, each set is attached to the strip by an end seal area, at least some of the bags are attached by a weakened portion enabling separation of the bags.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The package assembly of ~~claim 11, 12 or 13~~ claim 11 wherein, the end bag is adapted to peel off from the strip.

Claim 15 (original): A packaging assembly including:  
a flexible strip;  
a plurality of bags attached to the strip at longitudinally spaced locations along the strip, each bag being attached to the strip by an end seal area including a weakened portion that is fractured enabling separation of the bag from the strip.